

HONORING VILLA DEL MAR
RESTAURANT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Villa Del Mar Restaurant of McAllen, Texas, an international family business celebrating 35 years of business.

Mr. Homero and Mrs. María Cristina Garza de Villarreal opened Villa Del Mar in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico in 1987. In 2005, the Villarreal family opened its first location in McAllen, Texas, quickly setting the standard for Mexican seafood in the Rio Grande Valley. Since then, Villa Del Mar Restaurant has united two countries and its people through their delicious cuisine.

Villa Del Mar stands as a living testament to the success that can come when passion and hard work meet opportunity. The Villarreal family has faithfully served our community and now serves as an inspiration for all Texans aspiring to succeed in business. Now, after a total of 35 years of service to the people of South Texas, I am proud to acknowledge their contributions to our region on the House floor. Villa Del Mar is a staple of Valley cuisine, and because of their hard work, it will continue to be one of South Texans' favorite restaurants.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements and successes of Villa Del Mar Restaurant and the Villarreal family, who have devoted their lives to giving the people of South Texas the highest quality of seafood and service. South Texas will be forever grateful.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU AND
SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, as the Representative of America's largest and oldest Armenian population, I rise today to commemorate the Baku and Sumgait Pogroms and to reaffirm that the U.S. stands on the side of democracy and peace—and that means standing with the Armenian people.

Over 30 years ago, as the lines of the Soviet Union were fading, the people of Artsakh were united and voted for greater independence from Azerbaijan. But this peaceful movement for self-determination was followed by premeditated and government-sponsored attacks. Over the next two years, the Armenian population of Artsakh was repeatedly victim to brutal and racially motivated pogroms. Hundreds were murdered, and thousands were displaced in Baku, Sumgait and Kirovabad.

These pogroms were a direct assault on the right of self-determination in Artsakh. And it is an assault that is continuing today. In the fall of 2020, as the world was struggling to contain the corona virus pandemic, Azerbaijan launched yet another war of aggression against the peaceful people of Artsakh, destroying homes and villages and once again displacing thousands.

This violence is unacceptable, which is why I immediately called for a cease fire and have called for an end to U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan. We must also ensure the humanitarian needs of the Armenian people are being met, which is something I have pushed Samantha Power, the Administrator of USAID, to help us do.

Having had the privilege of visiting Artsakh in October 2019, I've seen the pride of the people there and I know how strong they are. That is why I know that, just as their spirit could not be defeated after the Sumgait and Baku pogroms, it will not be defeated today.

I am proud to stand with the Armenian people in their fight for democracy and human rights and stand united in rejecting the violence from Azerbaijan that has destroyed too many lives.

DIVINITY DELMASTRO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Divinity Delmastro for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Divinity Delmastro is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Divinity Delmastro is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Divinity Delmastro for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING 2022 "FORCE OF NATURE"
AWARD WINNER CAROL
BROWNER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Carol Browner, on being awarded the "Force of Nature" award by global non-profit Pure Earth. Her lifetime of dedication to protecting the environment and fighting for vulnerable populations makes Ms. Browner a true force of nature. Her significant contributions to environmental progress and sustainability are worthy of commendation.

Born in Miami, Florida, she is a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Florida College of Law. At home in South Miami, Ms. Browner grew up around nature and developed her love and appreciation for our environment and their natural resources early on by spending time visiting the nearby Everglades. Her first role was in the Florida House of Representatives as General Coun-

sel, working to revise the Conservation and Recreational Lands Program. She later moved to Washington, DC to advocate for the environment and ended up working on Capitol Hill. She worked for Senator Lawton Chiles, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and as Legislative Director for Senator Al Gore. She then returned to her home state of Florida to serve as Secretary of Environmental Regulation.

After the election of President Bill Clinton, Ms. Browner was nominated for the position of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator. She was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 21, 1993. During this time, she notably helped strengthen the Clean Air Act and upped the United States position in the fight against global warming. After the end of the Clinton administration, she joined the Albright Group where she continued her work as an advocate for strengthening environmental regulations and fighting climate change. At the start of a new Democratic administration in 2009, President Barack Obama named her Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy. She helped negotiate the new automobile emission standards in 2009 and was a leader during the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of 2010. During the Obama administration, she secured a historic investment in clean energy and established the first ever greenhouse gas reduction standards. Ms. Browner now serves on the board of directors for environmental groups, including as Chair for the League of Conservation Voters.

Ms. Browner's accomplishments are numerous and impactful, and in every place that she has served, she has done all in her power to create positive change and put beneficial climate policy in action. She has been on the front lines of environmental policy for the past three decades and shows no sign of stopping anytime soon. She was named winner of the "Force of Nature Award" for this year because of her ongoing efforts to protect children from environmental hazards, and for her recent establishment of the Protecting Every Child's Potential lead contamination prevention initiative.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Carol Browner as this year's "Force of Nature" award winner. We are grateful for her continued work on behalf of our environment and congratulate her on this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER THERESA
HARPIN—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH
CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Sister Theresa Harpin of San Luis Obispo, California.

With over 40 years as a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Sister Theresa looks at the world through the lens of